Legislation for compensation to the victims of assaults by anti-social elements in Railways

962. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present death of rail passengers due to assaults by dacoits/anti-social elements is not covered by any legislation for payment of compensation;

(b) whether Government pay any compensation for loss/damage of goods booked by the Railways, during transit;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which the same principle is not being made applicable in the case of loss of passenger's life, resulting from assault by anti-social elements; and

(d) by when a legislation to remedy the situation is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, in accordance with provisions of the Railways Act.

(c) Assault by dacoits/anti-social elements in the Railways involves law and order problems for which the responsibility rests with the State Governments and, therefore, it is not covered by Indian Railways Act.

(d) Question does not arise.

Reports of Commissioners of Railway Safety

963. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports submitted to Government by the Commissioners of Railway Safety have always been treated as confidential and were never disclosed before Parliament/public;

(b) what is the number of Railway accidents which took place during the last three years and for which Government had ordered probes by Commissioners for Railway Safety;

(c) what are the main causes of the accidents; and

(d) what action is being contemplated by Government on each report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) All the reports of the Commissioners of Railway Safety are not treated as confidential. Where the Commission of Railway Safety, in its opinion, feels the desirability of publishing a Report, it makes a recommendation accordingly and in majority of such cases the Ministry of Railways agrees with the recommendations and these reports are published.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation which is the Ministry in charge of the Commission of Railway Safety publishes an annual report in which, among other matters, details are given of all the accidents where the statutory inquiries were held by the Commissioners of Railway Safety, including their causes and recommendations.

(b) The number of consequential train accidents and those inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety, during the last 3 years viz., 1985-86 to 1987-88 are as under:—

Year	Number of accidents	Number of accidents inquired into by the CRSs
1985-86	717	28
1986-87	644	30
1987-88	604	24
	1965	82

(c) The main causes of the accidents are:—

(i) Failure of railway staff;

(ii) Failure of persons other than railway staff; and

(iii) Failure of equipment.

(d) Government attaches great importance to the reports of the Commissioners of Railway Safety. Railway staff held responsible for accidents by the Commissioners of Rail-Way Safety are taken up suitably.

The majority of the recommendations made by the Commissioners of Railways Safety in their reports are implemented.

964. [*Transferred in the 5the August*, 1988].

Rise in prices of school text books

965. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rise in the prices of school text books this year published under the directions of the National Council of Educational Research and Training; if so, what is the minimum and maximum extent of the rise;

(b) whether it has resulted in making the school education more costly;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many States, the school children could not receive these books upto the 2nd week of July and they had to go to school without books; and

(d) if so, what preventive measures were taken in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of some of the new and reprint text books published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training this year, has increased by Rs. 5.45 per title.

(c) While the reprint editions of the NCERT text-books were available in time, there was some delay in publishing new text books for 1988-89 brought out by the Council. Thus the delay has effected availability of text-books for classes II, IV, VII, IX and XI for which only new text books have been introduced this year.

(d) Arrangements have been made this year for Assistant Commissioners of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to lift their requirements of the new text books for their respective zones from the NCERT at Delhi so as to ensure their availability in the Kendriya Vidyalayas in the shortest possible time.

Utilisation of rail concessions for the handicapped

966. DR. G. VIJAYA MOMAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail concessions for the handicapped granted by Government from 1st January, 1987 are being fully utilised; if so, what are the details of beneficiaries so far, State-wise; and

(b) whether any difficulty faced by beneficiaries, their wards or any social voluntary organisation have come to Government's notice and if so, what corrective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Statistics in regard to the utilisation of concessions granted to handicapped persons are not maintained.

(b) A few cases of railway staff not *accepting the certificates produced by* the handicapped were reported Instructions were repeated to the Railways to honour the certificates issued by the authorised doctors.